

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Attention: News Director  
For Immediate Release  
September 14, 2006**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
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Western District of Kentucky**

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**JURY FINDS OWENSBORO DRUG DEALER GUILTY OF  
DRUGS AND GUN CHARGES AFTER THREE-DAY TRIAL**

*– Faces a life sentence  
– Wife pleads guilty before start of trial*

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **BRENT FELIX BLOOMER**, age 53, of 6735 Ten Oaks Lane, Philpot, Kentucky, was **found guilty** on September 13, 2006, by a federal jury in United States District Court, Owensboro, Kentucky, of conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine, attempting to manufacture methamphetamine; possessing methamphetamine with the intent to distribute; possession of pseudoephedrine with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine; possession of chemicals and equipment with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine; and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug crime. In addition, Judge Joseph McKinley found **Bloomer** guilty of possession of a firearm by a felon previously convicted of conspiracy to murder a witness in a federal drug trial against **Bloomer's** brother. **Bloomer** was found guilty of all counts charged against him in the indictment after a three-day trial before Judge Joseph H. McKinley, Jr., United States District Court.

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The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, in partnership with the Kentucky State Police and Daviess County Sheriff's Office, as part of Project Backfire. Huber praised the joint cooperation of the Kentucky State Police and the Daviess County Sheriff's Office as a "way to rid the streets of dangerous offenders." **Project Backfire** is a partnership of state and federal law enforcement which targets violent offenders for prosecution to the fullest extent of state and federal law.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Robert J. Kilmartin and John E. Kuhn, Jr.

On July 12, 2005, when the Kentucky State Police and the Daviess County Sheriff's deputies executed a search warrant, all of the equipment, chemicals, and materials necessary to manufacture more than 50 grams of methamphetamine had been found locked in the barn at 6735 Ten Oaks Lane in Philpot, Kentucky, where **Bloomer** lived. There was also a small amount of methamphetamine in the residence at that time. Also found were a 12-gauge shotgun and 9mm pistol. The 9mm pistol was in the barn with the methamphetamine ingredients and equipment. The barn was protected by surveillance cameras which could be monitored from both the barn and the residence.

With the jury's finding that **Bloomer** attempted to produce more than 50 grams of methamphetamine, **Bloomer** faces a mandatory life sentence due to his prior drug felony and violent crime convictions. He has several previous felony convictions, including two drug felony convictions, a burglary, and a 1995 conviction for conspiracy to murder a witness in a federal drug trial against **Bloomer's** brother. Fifty grams of methamphetamine has a street value of approximately \$5,000. **Bloomer** is also subject to a potential fine of \$15,250,000.

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**Bloomer's** wife, **BELINDA K. STROBEL**, age 49, also of 6735 Ten Oaks Lane, Philpot, Kentucky, **pled guilty** to conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine and possession of methamphetamine with an intent to distribute on the first day of the trial. She faces a minimum of five years imprisonment, a fine of 2,000,000, and at least 3 years of supervised release following her prison term.

**Bloomer** and **Strobel** are scheduled to be sentenced before Judge McKinley on December 19, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., respectively, in Owensboro, Kentucky.

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